(c) whether the allotment of the space is still pending despite of full amounts nine years back;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay in allotment; and

(e) the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by Delhi Development Authority 15 persons got themselves registered by paying registration deposit of Rs.20,000/- each.

(c) to (e) The registrants deposited the amount towards cost of the unit, but the allotment of specific unit could not be made because of non-commissioning of lifts and fire safety arrangements. Now since the completion report of the said services has been received, the allotment of specific units to the eligible registrants will be made through draw of lots.

[Translation]

Mahoba-Khajuraho Rail Line

326. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated total cost of construction of Mahoba-Khajuraho rail line;

(b) the details of the funds allocated for the above line during the current financial year; and

(c) the present status of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The estimated cost of new rail line between Lalitpur Satna, Rewa-Sidhi Singrauli and Mahoba-Khajuraho (541 kms.) is Rs.974.982 crores. However, Mahoba-Khajuraho section is not yet a part of the sanctioned project. It is proposed to obtain the necessary clearances for this sector and then include it with the approval of Parliament.

(b) The outlay for 1997-98 is Rs.0.01 crores.

(c) The work is to be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

[English]

Import of Coal by SAIL

327. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Ltd. has decided to reduce import of coal;

(b) whether SAIL has decided to use domestic coal with more ash content;

(c) whether SAIL will also have its own coal washeries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The requirement of imported coking coal is dependent on the qualitative and quantitative gaps between the total requirement and availabillity of coking coal from domestic sources and landed cost of domestic vis-a-vis imported coking coal. As an overall strategy to reduce cost of production at SAIL plants the requirement of coking coal, including imported coking coal, is being reduced by adopting techno-economic measures.

(b) SAIL is using domestic coking coal with higher ash content by suitably blending the same with low ash imported coking coal for use in the blast furnaces.

(c) and (d) SAIL owns two washeries-one at Chasnalla (Captive to Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd., a subsidiary of SAIL) and another at Durgapur. At present there is no plan to add any new washery.

Prasar Bharati Act

328. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of employees of AIR/DD have been sent to various Ministries after the Prasar Bharati Act came into force;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted in this regard;

(c) whether employees will be given option or they will be shifted as per discretion of higher officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The employees will be given option as per provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act,1990.

[Translation]

DD Kendra in Gujarat

329. SHRI JAYSINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shamlaji Doordarshan Kendra in Sabarkantha district in Gujarat was inaugurated two and half years ago but it has not been commissioned;